

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended herein. Claims 1-9 and 21-32 are pending in the application. In this amendment, Claims 1-9 and 21-32 have been canceled, and Claims 33-44 have been added. Therefore, Claims 33-44 are pending in the application.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because characters C1-C19 appeared at the beginning of several paragraphs throughout the specification. A substitute specification that includes all the changes previously made in the application, as well as the corrections required by the Examiner, has been provided. Five new paragraphs have been added to page 11 to clarify the embodiments shown in Figures 2 and 3, as required by the Examiner. The last paragraph on page 18 has also been amended to clarify the description of Figure 13. No new matter has been entered.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because the embodiments shown in Figures 2 and 3 do not have the same features and the same reference character 12 points to different components. Figure 2 has been amended so that each adhesive pocket has a separate reference character by including a letter after the reference character 12. Figure 3 has been amended, also, so that each adhesive pocket has a separate reference character by including a letter after the reference character 12. Additionally, Figure 3 has been amended to indicate that the panels are different by including a prime symbol to depict the components that are different in the alternate embodiment. As indicated above, the specification has been changed accordingly to correspond with the drawings.

The Examiner also objected to the drawing Figure 13 because the indication of profiles 42, 43 and profiles 4a, 4b do not seem to be placed correctly in proportion to the panel. Applicant notes, however, that the panel, according to the invention, is a three-dimensional object having a broad flat top and bottom and four narrow sides. Of the four narrow sides, two are long and two are short. In the present invention, profiles 4a, 4b are formed on the short sides and profiles 42, 43 are formed on the long sides. Figure 13 has been amended to more clearly indicate that reference characters 67, 68 are for the long sides of the panel. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered.

Marked-up copies of Figures 2, 3 and 13 are attached to highlight the drawing changes.

Claims

The Examiner objected to the claims for various informalities and clarity. Applicants have amended the claims herein by placing them in a more traditional format according to U.S. practice.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 3, 8 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have included all of the limitations of Claim 11 and the limitations of Claim 1, being the base claim, into new Claim 33. Also, Applicants have included all of the limitations of Claim 31 and the limitations of Claim 1, being the base claim, into new independent Claim 39. The Examiner's assistance in accurately describing allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

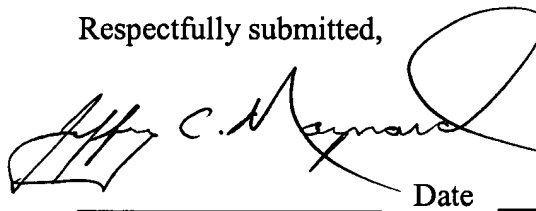
Claims 34-38 depend from new Claim 33, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 34-38 are also allowable. Claims 40-44 depend from new Claim 39, which the Examiner has indicated is

allowable as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 40-44 are also allowable

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to address the objections and rejections identified by the Examiner and respectfully submit that the outstanding objections and rejections in the Office Action have been overcome. In view of the above amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be patentable, and thus, the case is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. In the event that there is any question concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

 12/8/04
Date

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

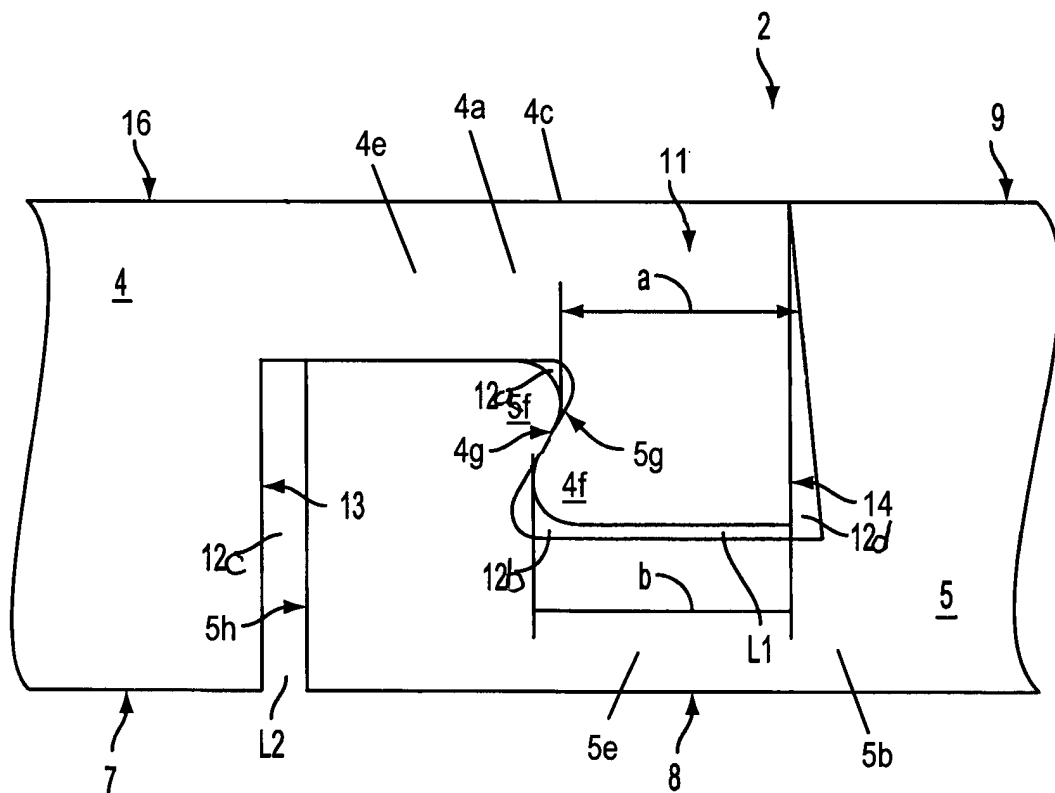


FIG. 2

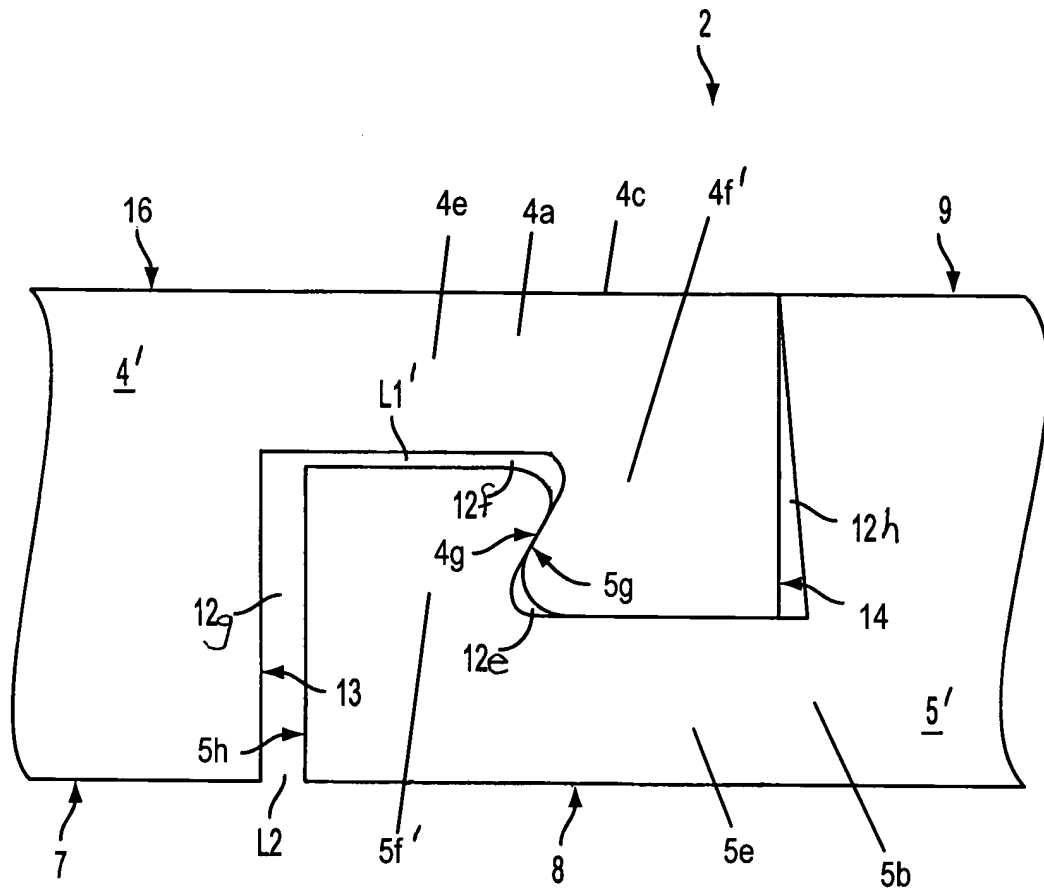


FIG. 3

